

FEBRUARY

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 8:15 p.m.
 Place: Morrison Auditorium
 Speaker: Emerson Scott
 Subject: "PIKA COUNTRY"

Pika Country, so-called because of the furry little rabbit-like pika which inhabits the territory, covers that area of the U.S. from central California northward to the Canadian border, and from central Colorado westward to the Pacific Ocean.

The San Juan mountains of western Colorado, the Continental Divide, the back country of Glacier National Park and Jackson Hole - all are recorded by Mr. Scott's camera. We find weasels, grizzly bears, coyotes, antelope, elk and moose. Also, trumpeter swans, ducks and geese - presented against the natural beauty of western America.

For a number of years, Mr. Scott has been engaged in the enviable occupations of traveling, photographing and lecturing. He has made previous appearances before the Academy membership.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

February 5 through March 1: "PLANETARIUM ON PARADE". A surprising look behind the scenes at the amazing equipment which makes a sky show possible, a repeat of one of the Planetarium's most popular presentations.

Performances daily at 3:30, with evening performances Wednesday through Sunday at 8:30. Extra matinees Saturday and Sunday at 2:00. The Planetarium is closed on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Admission: Adults, 75¢. Juniors, 40¢.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Exhibit of the Month: "COELACANTH" from the Academy collections. Main Foyer, Science Museum.

"THE ALASKAN SEA OTTER", photographs by Karl W. Kenyon, continues through February 15 in Lovell White Hall.

Beginning Monday February 24: "SWEDISH INVENTIONS AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES". At 10:00 a.m. on opening day the Academy will be host to Prince Bertil of Sweden.

The public is cordially invited as part of the celebration of San Francisco's Sweden Week.

This exhibit will continue through March 22.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION"

Thursday nights, 7:30 p.m., KTVU-TV, Channel 2.

- February 6: "THE KIDNEY", with Guest scientist Malcolm A. Holliday, M.D., Director of Medicine and Research, Children's Hospital, Oakland.
- February 13: "BIOLOGICAL CLOCKS", with Dr. William Hamilton, California Academy of Sciences.
- February 20: "TEKTITES", with Dr. Dean R. Chapman and Howard K. Larson, Ames Research Center, NASA.
- February 27: "THE NOBEL PRIZE", with Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry, 1954, and Nobel Peace Prize Winner, 1962.

NEWS and NOTES

Friends of the late Alice Eastwood, famed botanist at the Academy for over a half-century, continue to both surprise and please everyone concerned with gifts and bequests in her memory for a furtherance of research in the field of botany.

The most recent such surprise came in the form of a bequest for botanical research from the estate of Mr. William Franklin Herrin and his daughter, Alice. At the time of his death in the late twenties, Mr. Herrin, for many years Chief Counsel for Southern Pacific Company, made a gift of his valuable botanical library to the Academy. It was not known at the time that he had further remembered the Department of Botany by creating trust funds for the benefit of his daughter which subsequently, on her death, would accrue to the California Academy of Sciences. Miss Herrin died in Maryland in the summer of 1963. Then it became known that she too had made an additional gift to the botany department, the total gift now amounting to \$37,500.

Mr. Herrin, a long-term friend of Miss Eastwood whose 105th birthday would have been celebrated January 19, was interested in both wild and cultivated plants.

On Wednesday January 8, the Academy was host to some 60 scientists who had convened in San Francisco for the Galapagos International Scientific Project (See NEWSLETTER, December 1963). Their meeting at the Academy was part of the symposium which preceded the embarkation for the Galapagos on January 10.

While at the Academy, the distinguished company inspected the world-famous Galapagos collections housed in the various departments. The Project, sponsored jointly by University of California Extension and the Academy and financed by the National Science Foundation, has the full cooperation of the Government of Ecuador to whom the islands belong.

Gladys L. Smith, Technical Assistant in the Botany Department, is the author of "Flowers and Ferns of Muir Woods" published recently by the Muir Woods Natural History Association in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Academy. Mrs. Smith's book, 32 pages in length and illustrated generously with drawings and photographs, is for sale at the Academy sales desks. Price: \$1.00.

Dr. Charles R. Stasek, formerly associated with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has joined the staff as Research Biologist in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology. Dr. Stasek's principal area of scientific research relates to the morphology of bivalved mollusks. His appointment was made possible by a grant to the Department from the National Science Foundation.

New and interesting material from remote corners of the world is being incorporated in the collections of the Department of Herpetology. On an exchange basis, the Department now has a fine collection of lizards from the Trans-Caspian area of Europe, an addition made possible by the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad; amphibians from the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Genoa, Italy; and a representative collection of reptiles and amphibians from the island of Bouganville, largest of the Solomon Islands. This last came through exchange with the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College.

From the Academy Collections



"How long will these plant specimens last?" is one of the most frequent questions asked by visitors who are seeing for the first time research materials in the Herbarium of the Academy's Botany Department; and we reply "Forever...provided they are properly cared for." And then we explain that to preserve pressed herbarium specimens it is necessary to keep them in a dry place and to protect them from the ravages of certain insects that use the plant material for food.

The oldest dried and pressed plant specimens in the Academy are in what we fondly call "The old Swedish Herbarium", a collection made by Anders Beckman in Sweden and dated 1752. Even after more than two centuries, many of his plants are well-preserved and recognizable. They are mounted in a book-like album of 121 pages, 8 inches long and 6-1/2 inches wide, and they carry Latin designations that seem strange to us because the names pre-date the scientific botanical nomenclature established by Linnaeus in 1753.

Although any collection of dried pressed plants that is systematically filed and kept for reference might be called an herbarium, styles have changed in the organization of these plant materials. Whereas it was the fashion to put the plants into bound volumes two hundred years ago, now specimens in botanical museums everywhere are mounted on special loose sheets of paper that are shelved in cabinets.

The Beckman Herbarium was a gift to the Academy from Mrs. H.P. Bracelin of Berkeley who had received it from Sara Beckman, a descendant of Anders. It will be on display in the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany during the months of February and March.

(Photo by Toshio Asaeda, CAS) John Thomas Howell

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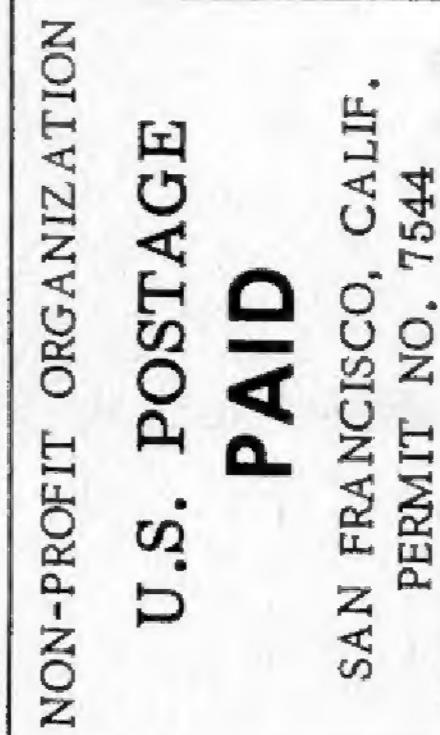
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No. 290 - Published Monthly by the
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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